

**District of Columbia Public Schools**  
**2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 8th Grade Students**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Abdel-Fattah, Randa</b>	<b>Does My Head Look Big in This?</b>	Year Eleven at an exclusive prep school in the suburbs of Melbourne, Australia, would be tough enough, but it is further complicated for Amal when she decides to wear the hijab, the Muslim head scarf, full-time as a badge of her faith--without losing her identity or sense of style.
<b>Alexie, Sherman</b>	<b>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian</b>	Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other Indian is the school mascot.
<b>Anderson, Laurie H.</b>	<b>Fever 1793</b>	Sixteen-year-old Matilda Cook, separated from her sick mother, learns about perseverance and self-reliance when she is forced to cope with the horrors of the yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793.
<b>Bausum, Ann</b>	<b>Freedom Riders: John Lewis and Jim Zwerg on the Front Line of the Civil Rights Movement</b>	A recount of the freedom ride of John Lewis and Jim Zwerg into the South in 1961 as part of the Civil Rights Movement.
<b>Bloor, Edward</b>	<b>Tangerine</b>	Paul Fisher, a stellar soccer player despite being legally blind, finally comes into his own when his family moves to the strange town of Tangerine, Florida.
<b>Budhos, Marina</b>	<b>Ask Me No Questions</b>	Fourteen-year-old Nadira, her sister, and their parents leave Bangladesh for New York City, but the expiration of their visas and the events of September 11, 2001, bring frustration, sorrow, and terror for the whole family.
<b>Bunting, Eve</b>	<b>Jumping the Nail</b>	When teenagers in a California coastal community challenge each other to "jump the Nail"--leap from dangerous cliffs into the ocean--group pressure and manipulative relationships quickly drive the game out of control.
<b>Carson, Ben</b>	<b>Gifted Hands</b>	Captures the physician's fight to beat the odds, the secret behind his outstanding accomplishments, and what drives him to take risks.
<b>Clinton, Catherine, ed.</b>	<b>I, Too, Sing America</b>	A collection of poems by African-American writers, including Lucy Terry, Gwendolyn Bennett, and Alice Walker.
<b>Collins, Suzanne</b>	<b>The Hunger Games</b>	Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen accidentally becomes a contender in the annual Hunger Games, a grave competition hosted by the Capitol where young boys and girls are pitted against one another in a televised fight to the death.

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<b>Cummings, Priscilla</b>	<b>The Red Kayak</b>	Near the water on Maryland's Eastern Shore, thirteen-year-old Brady and his best friends J.T. and Digger become entangled in a tragedy which tests their friendship and their ideas about right and wrong.
<b>Farmer, Nancy</b>	<b>The Ear, the Eye and the Arm</b>	In Zimbabwe in 2194, General Matsika calls in Africa's most unusual detectives--the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm--to find his missing children.
<b>Filipovic, Zlata</b>	<b>Zlata's Diary: A Child's Life in Wartime Sarajevo</b>	The day-to-day record of the life of a typical 11-year-old girl, preoccupied by piano lessons and birthday parties. But as war engulfs Sarajevo, Zlata Filipovic becomes a witness to food shortages and the deaths of friends and learns to wait out bombardments in a neighbor's cellar.
<b>Flake, Sharon</b>	<b>Who Am I without Him?: Short Stories...</b>	Twelve short stories about teenage girls struggling with issues of self-worth.
<b>Fleischman, Paul</b>	<b>Dateline: Troy</b>	A retelling of the story of the Trojan War illustrated with collages featuring newspaper clippings of modern events from World War I through the War on Terrorism.
<b>Fleischman, Sid</b>	<b>Trouble Begins at 8: A Life of Mark Twain...</b>	A narrative account of the childhood and youth of nineteenth-century writer Mark Twain. Includes period engravings, newspaper cartoons, and black-and-white photographs.
<b>Fletcher, Susan</b>	<b>Shadow Spinner</b>	Sultan lets her live another day — providing the story is interesting enough to capture his attention. After almost one thousand nights, Shahrazad is running out of tales. And that is how Marjan's story begins.
<b>Funke, Cornelia</b>	<b>Thief Lord</b>	Proper and Bo are orphans on the run from their cruel aunt and uncle. The brothers decide to hide out in Venice, where they meet a mysterious thirteen-year-old boy who calls himself the
<b>Hamilton, Virginia</b>	<b>Anthony Burns</b>	A biography of the slave who escaped to Boston in 1854, was arrested at the instigation of his owner, and whose trial caused a furor between abolitionists and those determined to enforce the Fugitive Slave Acts.
<b>Hill, Laban Carrick</b>	<b>Harlem Stomp!</b>	Offers a cultural history of the Harlem Renaissance, discussing how it sparked a period of intellectual, artistic, literary, and political blossoming for many African-Americans.

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<b>Hoobler, Dorothy</b>	<b>The Demon in the Teahouse</b>	A fourteen-year-old boy named Seikei who was adopted by Judge Ooka was sent to the Teahouse of the Falling Cherry Blossoms to collect information about the fire cases which had
<b>Howe, James</b>	<b>The Misfits</b>	Four students who do not fit in at their small-town middle school decide to create a third party for the student council elections to represent all students who have ever been called names.
<b>Klass, David</b>	<b>California Blue</b>	A 17-year-old loner with a passion for nature discovers a new species of butterfly in the old-growth forest near his home and is thrust headlong into the battle between environmentalists and the timber industry. A gripping story of a young man holding on to personal convictions in spite of family and community pressure.
<b>Lee, Tanith</b>	<b>Wolf Tower</b>	When a stranger is captured by the guards of the house and garden where she has worked all her life as a slave and maid, sixteen-year-old Claidi helps him escape and sets out with him to journey to his home city through the dangerous waste.
<b>Mikaelsen, Ben</b>	<b>Red Midnight</b>	Santiago, who is twelve, and his little sister Angelina, who is four, sail the ocean by themselves in a small cayuco, or sea kayak, for more than 20 days. The story is fiction but the military killing thousands of people in Central America during the 1980s is true and really happened.
<b>Myers, Walter Dean</b>	<b>Harlem</b>	Walter Dean Myers's songlike poem relates the story of a group of people who settled in New York City, hoping to improve their lots in life, only to discover that racism could still keep them from achieving success.
<b>Nelson, Marilyn</b>	<b>Fortune's Bones: The Manumission Requiem</b>	A series of poems on the life of Fortune, an eighteenth-century African-American slave in New England whose skeleton came to be an exhibit at Connecticut's Mattatuck Museum; includes notes and archival photos.
<b>Potok, Chaim</b>	<b>The Chosen</b>	A recount of the story of Reuven Malter and Danny Saunders--one an orthodox Jew, the other the son of a Hasidic rabbi--and the course of their friendship as they grow up in Brooklyn.

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<b>Robinson, Sharon</b>	<b>Jackie's Nine: Jackie Robinson's Values to Live By</b>	Baseball hero Jackie Robinson's daughter discusses nine values that her father held dear, shares memories from her life and her father's that illustrate those values, and profiles individuals whom she considers heroes.
<b>Severance, John B.</b>	<b>Gandhi, Great Soul</b>	A biography of Mohandas K. Gandhi, a man who gave up his successful law practice and dedicated his life to helping free the people of India from British rule through a program of peaceful resistance.
<b>Sones, Sonya</b>	<b>Stop Pretending: When My Big Sister Went Crazy</b>	A younger sister has a difficult time adjusting to life after her older sister has a mental breakdown.
<b>Soto, Gary</b>	<b>Living Up the Street</b>	The author describes his experiences growing up as a Mexican American in Fresno, California.
<b>Stevenson, Robert L.</b>	<b>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</b>	A London lawyer who investigates strange occurrences between his old friend, Dr Henry Jekyll, and the misanthropic Edward Hyde.
<b>TenNapel, Doug</b>	<b>Iron West</b>	Preston Struck is an incompetent outlaw with a heart of fool's gold. He discovers an army of metal men bent on destroying central California. While Struck avoids any form of heroism, he gets a little help from a magical old shaman and his sidekick Sasquatch.
<b>Thimmesh, Catherine</b>	<b>Team Moon How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon</b>	The Apollo 11 mission, the spaceflight that landed the first man on Earth's moon on July 20, 1969, emphasizing the contributions and reactions of the thousands of people who made the mission successful.
<b>Thompson, Craig</b>	<b>Goodbye, Chunky Rice</b>	Chunky Rice learns important lessons about friendship, loss, and loneliness.
<b>Tolkien, J. R. R.</b>	<b>The Hobbit</b>	The adventures of Bilbo Baggins and 13 other hobbits as they attempt to recapture their treasure from Smaug, the terrible dragon.
<b>Trueman, Terry</b>	<b>Stuck in Neutral</b>	Fourteen-year-old Shawn McDaniel, who suffers from severe cerebral palsy and cannot function, relates his perceptions of his life, his family, and his condition, especially as he believes his father is planning to kill him.

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<b>Turner, Megan W.</b>	<b>The Thief</b>	Gen flaunts his ingenuity as a thief and relishes the adventure which takes him to a remote temple of the gods where he will attempt to steal a precious stone.
<b>Uchida, Yoshiko</b>	<b>The Invisible Thread: An Autobiography</b>	Yoshiko Uchida, describes growing up in Berkeley, California, as a Nisei, second generation Japanese American, and her family's internment in a Nevada concentration camp during World War II.
<b>Verne, Jules</b>	<b>Journey to the Center of the Earth</b>	A team of explorers makes an expedition into an Icelandic crater which leads to the centre of the earth and to incredible and horrifying discoveries.
<b>Warren, Andrea</b>	<b>Surviving Hitler: A Boy in the Nazi Death Camps</b>	A biography of Jack Mandelbaum, who survived Nazi concentration camps when he was a teenager.
<b>Washington, Booker T.</b>	<b>Up From Slavery</b>	The autobiography of the man who, though born in slavery, educated himself and went on to found Tuskegee Institute.
<b>Werlin, Nancy</b>	<b>The Killer's Cousin</b>	After being acquitted of murder, seventeen-year-old David goes to stay with relatives in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he finds himself forced to face his past as he learns more about his strange young cousin Lily.
<b>Westerfield, Scott</b>	<b>The Uglies</b>	Just before their sixteenth birthdays, when they will be transformed into beauties whose only job is to have a great time, Tally's best friend runs away and Tally must find her and turn her in, or never become pretty at all.
<b>Williams-Garcia, Rita</b>	<b>Like Sisters on the Homefront</b>	Fourteen-year-old troubled Gayle is sent down South to live with her uncle and aunt, where her life begins to change as she experiences the healing power of the family.
<b>Wolff, Virginia E.</b>	<b>Bat 6</b>	In small town, post-World War Oregon, twenty-one 6th grade girls recount the story of an annual softball game, during which one girl's bigotry comes to the surface.
<b>Woodson, Jacqueline</b>	<b>Hush</b>	When Toswiah Green's father, witness to a murder, does the right thing by testifying against two fellow police officers, he puts his entire family in danger. Now the Greens have fled for their lives, leaving behind all that is comfortable and familiar for the alien existences laid out by the witness protection program.

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Yep, Laurence	Dragonwings	Laurence Yep portrays the world through the eyes of an immigrant in a new place. He shows the hardships as well as the good times.